

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method for facilitating electronic communications management by a system user, the method comprising:

generating a unique reference for the system user wherein the unique reference is required for identities to access a unique identity belonging to the system user;

permitting access to the unique identity belonging to the system user through the unique reference, wherein the unique identity comprises a plurality of components and the plurality of components are defined to include a plurality of electronic devices;

allowing the system user to alter any one of the plurality of components without altering the unique reference; and

providing the system user with tools for regulating access to the plurality of components such that selected known identities have access to selected components of the plurality of components, wherein the selected components of the plurality components are authorized, by the system user, to accept electronic communications from the selected known identities wherein the unique reference is required to be used by the selected known identities to communicate with the selected components[.]; and

allowing the system user to select a communications delivery method for receiving communications from each of the select known identities.

17-18. (Canceled).

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[18]] 16, further comprising allowing the system user to select an additional communication delivery method for unknown system users.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising providing live, message, and blocked communication delivery options.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[15]] 14, further comprising allowing a sender to select a communication transmission mode.

22. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising allowing a first system user to select a communication transmission mode and allowing a second system user to select a communication delivery mode.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, further comprising translating the communication transmission mode into the communication delivery mode if required.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, further comprising providing video, audio, and text communication delivery modes and communication transmission modes.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A system having a processor and memory for allowing a user having a unique identity to manage communications, wherein the unique identity is associated with a plurality of electronic devices, the system comprising:

a service for generating and assigning a unique reference to a user's unique identity such that the unique reference is a pointer to the user's unique identity, wherein an authorized identity can access the user's unique identity to communicate with the user only by using the unique reference;

permission controls for allowing the user to control access to the unique identity by restricting authorization to a selected set of other identities which includes the authorized identity; and

preference controls for allowing the user to select at least one ~~associated~~ device from a plurality of ~~associated~~ devices associated with the user, the at least one device is selected for receiving communication upon an access attempt by the authorized identity ~~user~~ using the unique reference.

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 26, wherein the service is a centralized service comprising a directory for allowing system users to locate a unique references for other system users.

28. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein the permission controls further comprise tools for restricting a communication delivery method to one of live, message and blocked for each system user.

29. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein the preference controls comprise tools for allowing selection of a communication reception mode and a communication transmission mode, wherein the communication reception and the communication transmission mode comprise at least audio and text modes.

30. (Original) The system of claim 29, further comprising translation services for translating from a communication transmission mode to a communication reception mode.

31. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein the plurality of associated devices comprise at least a telephone and a personal computerized device.

32. (New) A method for managing electronic communications directed to an identity owner by way of an identity owner account, wherein the identity owner account is associated with a plurality of electronic devices of the identity owner, the method comprising;

receiving, from the identity owner, an indication of a user that is authorized to communicate with the identity owner, wherein the user establishes communication with the identity owner by way of the identity owner account, and wherein the identity owner account utilizes the plurality of electronic devices to facilitate the users's communication to the identity owner;

storing, in the identity owner account, the authorization of the user to communicate with the identity owner;

receiving, from the identity owner, an indication as to which of the plurality of electronic devices are allowed to be utilized in the conveyance of a communication from the user regardless of a communication mode utilized by the user to establish the communication;

storing, in the identity owner account, the indication as to which electronic devices are allowed to convey a communication from the user; and

generating a unique reference that is the only reference useable by the user to access the identity owner account in order to communicate with the identity owner, wherein accessing the identity owner account is the only way for the user to establish a communication with the identity owner, and wherein a communication from the user is routed to the identity owner according to the stored indication as to which electronic devices are allowed to convey a communication from the user.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising maintaining a look-up table for locating unique references at the request of a system user.

34. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising providing preference controls for allowing an identity owner to select default methods for receiving communications from the user.

35. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the receiving an indication as to which of the plurality of electronic devices are allowed to be utilized in the conveyance of a communication from the user includes an indication for two or more electronic devices

36. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the method comprises allowing the identity owner to select a live communication delivery method.

37. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the method comprises allowing the identity owner to select a message communication delivery method.

38. (New) The method of claim 34, further comprising allowing a message sender to control a sent message until a receiver processes the message, such that a sender may delete a sent message prior to processing.

39. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the method comprises allowing selection of a live communication delivery method for a first group of users and a message communication delivery method for a second group of users.

40. (New) The method of claim 39, further comprising allowing the identity owner to block communication delivery from a third group of users.

41. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising providing the identity owner with a pointer as the associated reference.

42. (New) The method of claim 41, further comprising using the pointer to reference a plurality of electronic devices accessible to the identity owner.

43. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising allowing transmission of a communication from the user in a first mode and delivery of the communication to the identity owner in a second mode.

44. (New) The method of claim 43, further comprising translating the communication from the first mode to the second mode.

45. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the first mode and the second mode comprise one of voice communications, text communications, and video communications modes.